

Case study

Implementing the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme across Sefton





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To support the implementation of the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme, NHS Informatics Merseyside developed a tailored search within EMIS Web to identify those most at risk from Type 2 diabetes.

Background

Most people would be shocked to learn that around 22,000 people with diabetes die early every year. Type 2 diabetes is a leading cause of preventable sight loss in people of working age and is a major contributor to kidney failure, heart attack and stroke. In England, there are currently 3.4 million people with Type 2 diabetes, with around 200,000 new diagnoses every year. While Type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented and is not linked to lifestyle, Type 2 diabetes is largely preventable through lifestyle changes. The Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP) is a joint commitment from NHS England, Public Health England and Diabetes UK, which aims to identify those at high risk and refer them onto a behaviour change programme. In June 2016, the process for rolling out this programme began with a first wave of 27 areas, which as well as Sefton, locally included Cheshire, Wirral and St Helens.

The brief

To support the roll out of this programme, NHS Informatics Merseyside's Primary Care Data Quality Team worked with NHS Southport and Formby and NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to create a search within EMIS Web to identify those patients most at risk from Type 2 diabetes, and who should be invited to take part in this programme. The search was needed in order to identify pre-diabetic patients over 17 years of age who have a high HbA1c value, taken within the last nine months, which is more than or equal to 42 and less than 48. This excludes current patients residing in nursing homes, diabetic, dementia or palliative care patients and those currently pregnant. For people with diabetes this value is important as the higher the HbA1c, the greater the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Our approach

Initial scoping meetings took place with project and clinical leads from both CCGs. As part of these meetings, decisions were made regarding the criteria used to identify

appropriate patients for the programme and also the process of integrating patient leaflets and referral letters to the service within the EMIS Web clinical system.

The solution

To identify appropriate patients, NHS Informatics Merseyside's Primary Care Data Quality Team developed a bespoke search within the EMIS Web clinical system. The results were then exported to Microsoft Excel, which used specific merge fields to create a mailing list of those patients who could benefit from the programme. This file could then be used by practices to send invitations out using Docmail, which is a mail management system used within general practice. It was agreed that the programme would be rolled out on a practice by practice basis, with NHS Informatics Merseyside's Primary Care Data Quality Team supporting practice staff by importing invitation letters, leaflets and guides into the clinical system.

Feedback

In acknowledgment of the team's work in supporting this programme, Dr Nigel Taylor, GP and diabetes lead at NHS South Sefton CCG said: "I'd like to say a big thank you for all your help and assistance in getting things done within such a tight time-frame. It has really paid off and we have achieved our first year targets - both CCGs have achieved their first milestone target of 2,670 mailshot invitation letters, 850 patients have responded to the Provider Call Centre and we now have 366 patients recruited to the programme with GP referral forms having been sent out. We did 6 months worth of work in 2 months! Thank you!"

Next steps

As the programme reached full national coverage, CCGs across the Cheshire and Merseyside Health Care Partnership joined forces to deliver the programme collaboratively across the entire footprint. This resulted in the re-design and upload of revised referral letters and patient information leaflets. Patients are being invited to this service and NHS Informatics Merseyside is continuing to support this programme as it rolls out across practices in Sefton.

For further information about the work of our Primary Care Data Quality Team and the range of digital technology services provided by NHS Informatics Merseyside, please visit our website at: www.imerseyside.nhs.uk